



PATENT
Attorney Docket No: BSC-165

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANTS: Haarala et al. CONFIRMATION NO.: 3578
SERIAL NO.: 09/838,618 GROUP NO.: 3754
FILING DATE: April 19, 2001 EXAMINER: P. Buechner
TITLE: Catheter Slit Valves

CERTIFICATE OF FIRST CLASS MAILING UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.8

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and any document(s) referred to as enclosed herein, is/are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on this 20th day of September, 2002.

Diane Racicot
Diane Racicot

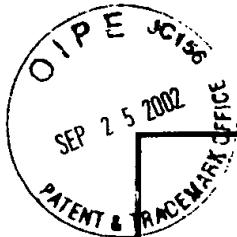
Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

Submitted herewith are:

1. Transmittal Form (1 pg.);
2. Response to Species Election Requirement (2 pgs.);
3. and return receipt postcard

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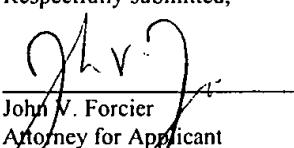
TRANSMITTAL FORM

Application Serial Number	09/838,618
Filing Date	April 19, 2001
First Named Inventor	Haarala
Group Art Unit	3754
Examiner Name	P. Buechner
Attorney Docket No.	BSC-165

ENCLOSURES (check all that apply)

<input type="checkbox"/> Fee Transmittal Form <input type="checkbox"/> Check Attached <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Fee Transmittal Form	<input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Notice to File Missing Parts of Application (PTO-1553) <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Drawing(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences <input type="checkbox"/> Appeal Communication to Group (<i>Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief</i>)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response to Species Election Requirement <input type="checkbox"/> After Final <input type="checkbox"/> Affidavits/declaration(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Letter to Official Draftsperson including Drawings [Total Sheets _____]	<input type="checkbox"/> Petition Routing Slip (PTO/SB/69) <input type="checkbox"/> Power of Attorney (Revocation of Prior Powers) <input type="checkbox"/> Terminal Disclaimer <input type="checkbox"/> Copy of Executed Declaration for Utility or Design Patent Application <input type="checkbox"/> Small Entity Statement <input type="checkbox"/> Request for Refund <input type="checkbox"/> After Allowance Communication to Group	<input type="checkbox"/> Status Inquiry <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Return Receipt Postcard <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Certificate of First Class Mailing under 37 C.F.R. 1.8 <input type="checkbox"/> Additional Enclosure(s) (<i>please identify below</i>)
<input type="checkbox"/> Extension of Time Request <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement Form PTO-1449 <input type="checkbox"/> Copies of IDS Citations <input type="checkbox"/> Certified Copy of Priority Document(s) <input type="checkbox"/> Response to Missing Parts/Incomplete Application		

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CORRESPONDENCE ADDRESS	SIGNATURE BLOCK
Direct all correspondence to: Patent Administrator Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110 Tel. No.: (617) 248-7000 Fax No.: (617) 248-7100	Respectfully submitted,  John V. Forcier Attorney for Applicant Testa, Hurwitz & Thibeault, LLP High Street Tower 125 High Street Boston, MA 02110

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PATENT
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RESPONSE TO SPECIES ELECTION REQUIREMENT

This paper is responsive to the Office Action, Paper No. 4, mailed from the Patent Office on August 20, 2002. The Office Action indicates that there are thirty-two patentably distinct species depicted in the figures and that no claim appears to be generic. A summary of the species follows:

1. FIGS. 3A, 3B, 4A;
2. FIGS. 5A-5B;
3. FIGS. 6A-6B;
4. FIGS. 7A-7B;
5. FIGS. 8A-8B;
6. FIGS. 8C;
7. FIGS. 9A-9B;
8. FIGS. 10A-10B;
9. FIGS. 11;
10. FIGS. 12;
11. FIGS. 13;
12. FIGS. 14;
13. FIGS. 15A-15C;
14. FIGS. 16A-16B;
15. FIGS. 17A-17B;
16. FIGS. 18A-18B;
17. FIGS. 19A-19B;
18. FIGS. 20A-20B;
19. FIGS. 21A-21B;
20. FIGS. 22-24, 28;
21. FIGS. 25-27;
22. FIGS. 29A;
23. FIGS. 29B;
24. FIGS. 29C;
25. FIGS. 29D;
26. FIGS. 30A-30B;
27. FIGS. 31A-31B;
28. FIGS. 32A-32B;
29. FIGS. 33A-33B;
30. FIGS. 34A-34B;
31. FIGS. 35A-35C;
32. FIGS. 36A-36D.

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Applicants hereby elect species 26, as represented by FIGS. 30A-30B. Applicants submit that at least claims 1-5, 8-11, 14-16, 19, and 43-46 are readable on FIGS. 30A-30B.

Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that at least independent claim 1 is generic. Claim 1 is directed to a catheter slit valve, which is depicted generally in FIGS. 3A-3B, 4A, 5A-5B, 6A-6B, 7A-7B, 8A-8C, 9A-9B, 10A-10B, 11-14, 15A-15C, 16A-16B, 17A-17B, 18A-18B, 19A-19B, 20A-20B, 21A-21B, 22-28, 29A-29D, 30A-30B, 31A-318, 32A-32B, 33A-33B, 34A-34B, and 36A-36D. Applicants submit that FIGS. 35A-35C depict examples of catheter and cap assemblies that could be used with any of the catheter slit valves depicted in the aforementioned figures.

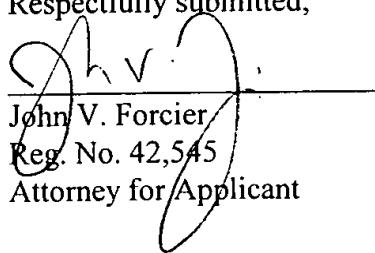
CONCLUSION

Applicants request entry of this response and allowance of claims 1-60 in due course. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned attorney to discuss any outstanding issues.

Date: September 20, 2002

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Respectfully submitted,


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